

66th SEASON.

632d CONCERT.

# Handel and Haydn Society.



BOSTON MUSIC HALL,  
EASTER SUNDAY,

*April 17, 1881,*

AT 7.30 P. M.

## SAINT PAUL.

### PRINCIPAL VOCALISTS:

MRS. GEORG HENSCHEL (LILLIAN BAILEY), SOPRANO.

MRS. JENNIE M. NOYES, CONTRALTO.

MR. CHARLES R. ADAMS, TENOR.

MR. GEORG HENSCHEL, BARITONE.

CHOIR OF BOYS FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

Trained by MR. JOSEPH B. SHARLAND.

MR. CARL ZERRAHN, CONDUCTOR.

MR. B. J. LANG, ORGANIST.

# JAKOB LUDWIG FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY,

BORN AT HAMBURG, FEBRUARY 3, 1807. . . . . DIED AT LEIPSI, NOVEMBER 4, 1847.

## SAINT PAUL.

Opus 36. Begun at Düsseldorf, March, 1834; completed at Leipsic, first part, April 8, second part, April 18, 1836. The scriptural references are to be considered rather as authorities than as quotations, the English text being a translation from the original German. Produced at Düsseldorf, May 22, 1836. Twelfth performance by the Handel and Haydn Society. First time, January 22, 1843, at the Melodeon.

### PART FIRST.

ARGUMENT.—The persecuted Christian Church in Jerusalem prays to the Lord for power to resist the fury of the heathen. Stephen is accused of blasphemy by the incensed people, and is brought before the Council. Being questioned by the High Priest, he reproves his judges for the obstinacy with which they and their fathers have rejected the true faith, and resisted the Holy Ghost. They refuse to hear him, and insist upon putting him to death. Heeding not the reproof that Jerusalem had ever killed the Prophets which had been sent to her, they shout, "Stone him to death!" and Stephen suffers martyrdom, praying for mercy upon his persecutors. Devout men carry him to his burial, with much lamentation, and utter words of peace and hope over his grave. Saul, who is present at the martyrdom, resolves to continue his persecution of the Christian Church, and for this purpose journeys toward Damascus. A sudden light shines around him, and he is struck with blindness. A voice from Heaven calls upon him to proclaim the glory of the Lord to the benighted people, and his companions lead him by the hand into Damascus. There he prays, in bitter repentance, until the Lord sends to him Ananias, who restores his sight, and confers upon him his divine commission as a Christian preacher. He is baptized, and preaches in the Synagogues; and the congregation praises the wisdom and knowledge of God.

OVERTURE. *Andante con moto. Moderato.*

CHORUS. *Christians.* Lord, Thou alone art God: and Thine are the Heavens, the earth, and mighty waters. The Heathen furiously rage, Lord, against Thee, and against Thy Christ. Now, behold, lest our foes prevail, and grant to Thy servants all strength and joyfulness, that they may preach Thy word. *Acts iv. 24, 26, 29.*

CHORALE.

To God on high be thanks and praise,  
Who deigns our bonds to sever;  
His cares our drooping souls upraise,  
And harm shall reach us never.  
On Him we rest, with faith assured,  
Of all that live, the mighty Lord,  
Forever and forever.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And the many that believed were of one heart and of one soul: and Stephen, full of faith and full of power, did great wonders among the people; and they of the Synagogue were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit with which he spake. Then they suborned men who were false witnesses, which said:

DUET. *The False Witnesses. Basses.* We verily have heard him blaspheme against

these holy places, and against the law: ourselves have heard him speak. *Acts iv. 32; vi. 8, 10, 11, 13.*

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And they stirred up the people and the elders; and came upon him, and caught hold of him, and brought him to the Council, and spake:

CHORUS. *The People.* Now this man ceaseth not to utter blasphemous words against the law of Moses, and also God. Did we not enjoin and straitly command you, that ye should not teach in the name ye follow? and lo, ye have filled Jerusalem with those unlawful doctrines. He hath said, and our ears have heard him, Jesus of Nazareth, He shall destroy all these our holy places, and change all the laws and customs which Moses delivered us. *Acts vi. 11, 12, 14; v. 28.*

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And all that sat in the Council looked steadfastly on him, and saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. Then said the High Priest: "Are these things so?" And Stephen said:

RECITATIVE. *Stephen. Tenor.* Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken to me. The God of glory appeared unto our fathers, delivered the people out of their afflictions, and



gave them favor : but they understood it not. He sent Moses into Egypt, for he saw their afflictions and heard their groaning : but they refused him, and would not obey his word, but thrust him from them, and sacrificed to senseless idols. Solomon built him an house ; albeit the Most High God dwelleth not in temples which are made with hands ; for Heaven is His throne, and earth is but His footstool. Hath not His hand made all these things ? Ye hard of heart, ye always do resist the Holy Ghost : as did your fathers, even so do ye. Which of the Prophets have not your fathers persecuted ? And they have slain them which showed before the coming of Him, the Just one, with whose murder ye have here been stained. Ye have received the law by the disposition of angels, and ye have not obeyed it. *Acts vi. 15 ; vii. 1, 2, 10, 34, 39, 41, 47-53.*

CHORUS. *Hebrews.* Take him away. For now the holy name of God he hath blasphemed ; and who blasphemes Him, he shall perish. *Acts xxi. 36 ; Lev. xxiv. 16.*

RECITATIVE. *Stephen.* Lo, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God. *Acts vii. 56.*

ARIA. *Soprano.* Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered unto Me thy children, and ye would not. *Matt. xxiii. 37.*

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* Then they ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him, and cried aloud : *Acts vii. 57, 58.*

CHORUS. *Hebrews.* Stone him to death. He blasphemes God ; and who does so shall surely perish. Stone him to death. *Lev. xxiv. 16.*

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* And they stoned him : and he kneeled down and cried aloud : Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *Acts vii. 59, 60.*

#### CHORALE.

To Thee, O Lord, I yield my spirit,  
Who break'st in love this mortal chain ;  
My life I but from Thee inherit,  
And death becomes my chiefest gain.  
In Thee I live, in Thee I die,  
Content, for Thou art ever nigh.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And the witnesses had laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man whose name was Saul, who was consenting unto his death. And devout men took Stephen and carried him to his burial and made great lamentation over him. *Acts vii. 58 ; viii. 1, 2.*

CHORUS. Happy and blest are they who have endured ; for though the body dies, the soul shall live forever. *James i. 12.*

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* Now Saul made havoc of the Church ; and breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples, he spake of them much evil, and said : *Acts viii 3 ; ix. 1.*

AIR. *Saul. Bass.* Consume them all, Lord Sabaoth. Consume all these Thine enemies. Behold, they will not know Thee, that Thou, our great Jehovah, art the Lord alone, the highest over all the world. Pour out Thine indignation, and let them feel Thy power. *Ps. lix. 13 ; lxxxiii. 18 ; lxix. 24.*

RECITATIVE. AIR. *Contralto.* And he journeyed with companions toward Damascus, and had authority and command from the High Priest, that he might bring them bound, men and women, unto Jerusalem.

But the Lord is mindful of His own : He remembers His children. Bow down before Him, ye mighty, for the Lord is near us. *Acts ix. 2 ; Ps. cxv. 12 ; 2 Tim. ii. 19 ; Philipp. iv. 5.*

#### THE CONVERSION.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor. Bass.* CHORUS. And as he journeyed he came near unto Damascus ; when suddenly there shone around him a light from Heaven : and he fell to the earth ; and he heard a voice saying unto him : Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me ? And he said : Lord, who art Thou ? And the Lord said to him : I am Jesus of Nazareth whom thou persecutest. And he said, trembling and astonished : Lord, what wilt Thou have me do ? The Lord said to him : Arise and go into the city ; and there thou shalt be told what thou must do. *Acts ix. 3-6.*

CHORUS. Rise up, arise, and shine, for thy light comes ; and the glory of the Lord riseth bright upon thee. Behold, now, total darkness covereth the kingdoms, and gross darkness the people : but upon thee riseth



the mighty Lord ; and the glory of the Lord appeareth upon thee. *Is. lx. 1, 2.*

CHORALE.

Sleepers, wake, a voice is calling ;  
It is the Watchman on the walls,  
Thou city of Jerusalem.  
For lo, the Bridegroom comes.  
Arise and take your lamps. Hallelujah !  
Awake : His kingdom is at hand.  
Go forth to meet your Lord.

*Matt. xxv. 1.*

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* And his companions which journeyed with him stood, and they were afraid, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth ; and when his eyes were opened he saw no man. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus ; and he was three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink. *Acts ix. 7-9.*

ARIA. *Paul. Bass.* O God, have mercy upon me, and blot out my transgressions, according to Thy loving kindness, yea, even for Thy mercy's sake, deny me not. O cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Spirit from me. Lord, a broken and a contrite heart is offered before Thee. I will speak of Thy salvation, I will teach transgressors that all the sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Then open Thou my lips, O Lord ; and my mouth shall show forth Thy glorious praise. *Ps. li. 1, 11, 13, 15, 17.*

RECITATIVE. *Tenor. Soprano.* And there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias ; to him said the Lord : Ananias,

arise, and inquire thou for Saul of Tarsus ; for behold, he prayeth. He is a chosen vessel unto Me the Lord : and I will show unto him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake. *Acts ix. 10, 11, 15, 16.*

ARIA. *Paul.* I praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, forevermore : for great is Thy mercy toward me ; and Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. *Ps. lxxxvi. 12, 13.*

CHORUS. The Lord He is good ; He shall dry your tears and heal all your sorrows : for His word shall not decay. *Rev. xxi. 4 ; Matt. xxiv. 35.*

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house ; and laying his hands upon him, said : Hear thou, brother Saul, the Lord hath sent me hither (even Jesus that appeared unto thee as thou camest), that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be likewise filled with the Holy Ghost. *Acts ix. 17.*

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And there fell from his eyes like as though it were scales ; and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And straightway he preached Jesus in the Synagogues, and said : I thank God, who hath made me free through Christ. *Acts ix. 18, 20 ; Rom. vii. 25.*

CHORUS. O great is the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of the Father ! How deep and unerring is He in His judgments ! His ways are past our understanding. Sing His glory forevermore. Amen. *Rom. xi. 33.*

## PART SECOND.

ARGUMENT. — Saul, who on his conversion takes the name of Paul, preaches before the congregation. Paul and Barnabas are selected by the Holy Ghost, and sent as ambassadors to spread a knowledge of Christianity abroad. The multitude acknowledges them as messengers who preach the gospel of peace. The Jews, not believing in the Saviour, are envious, and consult how to kill Paul. But Paul and Barnabas, telling them that they have rejected the truth, although they were chosen first to have the word of the Lord set before them, turn from them to preach unto the Gentiles. Paul miraculously cures a cripple at Lystra ; and the Gentiles, believing that the gods have come down from heaven as mortals, call them Jupiter and Mercurius, and desire to offer sacrifices to them. But the Apostles refuse such vain homage ; and Paul endeavors to divert the minds of the people from the worship of false idols to that of the one living God. This excites the anger of the multitude ; and both Jews and Gentiles accuse him of having spoken against Jehovah's temple and the holy law, and raise a cry of "Stone him." But the Lord, whose help is ever nigh unto the faithful, saves him from persecution. Paul convokes the elders of Ephesus, telling them that he is bound in the spirit to go



forth to Jerusalem, and that they will see his face no more. They weep and pray; but Paul expresses his readiness to die for the Lord, and takes his leave, the elders accompanying him unto the ship. It is their comfort now to be God's own children. To him who has fought a good fight and kept well the faith, a crown of righteousness shall be given; and not only unto him, the believers sing, but to all them that love His appearing. So they bless the Lord and praise His holy name forever.

CHORUS. The nations are now the Lord's; they are His Christ's. For all the Gentiles come before Thee, and shall worship Thy name. Now are made manifest Thy glorious law and judgments. *Rev.* xi. 15; xv. 4.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And Paul came to the congregation, and preached freely the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Then spake the Holy Ghost: Set ye apart Barnabas and Paul, for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. *Acts* ix. 29; xiii. 2, 3.

DUET. *Paul. Barnabas. Bass. Tenor.* Now we are ambassadors in the name of Christ, and God beseeches you by us. 2 *Cor.* v. 20.

CHORUS. How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words; throughout all the lands their glad tidings. *Rom.* x. 15, 18.

RECITATIVE. *AIR. Soprano.* So they, being filled with the Holy Ghost, departing thence delayed not, and preached the word of God with joyfulness.

I will sing of Thy great mercies, O Lord, my Saviour, and of Thy faithfulness evermore. *Acts* xiii. 4, 5; *Psa.* lxxxix. 1.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* But when the Jews saw the multitudes, how they assembled to hear what Paul delivered unto them, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting, and blaspheming. *Acts* xiii. 45.

CHORUS. *The Multitude.* Thus saith the Lord: I am the Lord, and beside Me is no Saviour. *Is.* xliii. 11.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* And they laid wait for Paul, and consulted together that they might kill him, and spake one to another:

CHORUS. *The Multitude.* Is this he, who, in Jerusalem, destroyed all calling on that name which here he preacheth? May all deceivers ever be confounded. Force him away! *Acts* ix. 21, 23, 24.

CHORALE. *Quartet. Chorus.*

O Thou, the true and only Light,  
Direct the souls that walk in night;  
And bring them 'neath Thy shelt'ring care,  
To find their blest redemption there  
Illumine those who blindly roam;  
O call the wanderer kindly home:  
The hearts astray that union crave,  
And those in doubt, confirm and save.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* But Paul and Barnabas spake freely and publicly unto the people:

RECITATIVE. *Paul.* Ye were chosen first to have the word of the Lord set before you; but, seeing that ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of the life everlasting, behold ye, we turn, even now, unto the Gentiles. *Acts* xiii. 46.

DUET. *Paul. Barnabas.* For so hath the Lord Himself commanded: Behold, I have made thee a light to the Gentiles, and for salvation unto all the earth. For those who call on the Lord, He will hear them, and they shall be blessed. *Acts* xiii. 47; ii. 21.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* And there was a man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, and who had never walked: and the same heard Paul speak; who, steadfastly beholding him, said, with a loud voice: Stand upright upon thy feet. And he leaped up, and walked, and praised God. But when the Gentiles saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying one to another:

CHORUS. *Gentiles.* The gods themselves, as mortals, have descended. Behold them here, and adore them. *Acts* xiv. 8-11.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And they called Barnabas *Jupiter*, and Paul *Mercurius*. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and would have sacrificed with the people, and adored them. *Acts* xiv. 12, 13.

CHORUS. *Gentiles.* O be gracious, ye immortals. Heed our sacrifice with favor.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* Now when the Apostles heard the same, they rent their



garments, and ran in among the people, crying out and saying: *Acts* xiv. 14.

RECITATIVE. *Air. Paul.* O wherefore do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with yourselves; who preach unto you, in peace and earnestness, that ye should turn away from all these vanities unto the ever living God, who made the outstretched Heavens, the earth, and the sea. As saith the prophet: All your idols are but falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their trouble they shall perish. God dwelleth not in temples made with hands.

For know ye not that ye are His temple, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth within you? And whoso'er God's temple defileth, God shall surely destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. *Acts* xiv. 15; xvii. 24; *1 Cor.* iii. 16, 17.

AIR. *Paul.* But our God abideth in heaven; His will directeth all the world. *Ps.* cxv. 3.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano* Then the multitude was stirred up against them, and there was an assault of the Jews and of the Gentiles; they were full of anger, and cried out against them: *Acts* xiv. 2, 5.

CHORUS. *Jews. Gentiles.* This is Jehovah's temple. Ye children of Israel, help us. This is the man who teacheth all men, against the people, against this place, and also our holy law. We have heard him speak against the law. He blasphemeth God. Stone him to death. *Acts* xxi. 28.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And they all persecuted Paul on his way: but the Lord stood with him, and strengthened him, that by him the word might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear. *2 Tim.* iv. 17.

ARIA. *Tenor.* Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life. Be not afraid; My help is nigh. *Rev.* ii. 10; *Jer.* i. 8.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And Paul sent, and called the elders of the church at Ephesus, and said to them:

RECITATIVE. *Paul.* Ye know how, at all seasons, I have been with you, serving the Lord with all humility and with many tears, testifying the faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now behold ye, I, bound in spirit, now go forth to Jerusalem. Bonds and affliction abide me there; and ye shall see my face no more. *Acts* xx. 17-19, 21-23, 25.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And they all wept sore, and prayed. *Acts* xx. 37.

CHORUS. *The Congregation.* Far be it from thy path: these things shall not be unto thee. *Matt.* xvi. 22

RECITATIVE. *Paul.* What mean ye thus to weep, and thus to break my heart? For I am prepared not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem, for the name of the Lord our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Acts* xxi. 13.

RECITATIVE. *Tenor.* And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down and prayed with them all. And they accompanied him unto the ship, and saw his face no more. *Acts* xx. 36, 38.

CHORUS. See what love hath the Father bestowed on us, in His goodness; that we should be called God's own children. *1 John* iii. 1.

RECITATIVE. *Soprano.* And though he be offered upon the sacrifice of our faith, yet he hath fought a good fight; he hath finished his course; he hath kept well the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give him at the last great day. *2 Tim.* iv. 6-8.

CHORUS. Not only unto him, but to all them that love truly His appearing. The Lord careth for us and blesseth us. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, and all within me bless and praise His holy name forever. All ye His angels, praise ye the Lord. *2 Tim.* iv. 8; *Ps.* ciii. 1, 20.